

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A steam generator for a laundry machine comprising:
a container provided with a water supply port to supply water and a steam exhaustion port to exhaust steam;
a heater to heat the water supplied into the container; and
a drain unit having an ~~upper~~ inlet to drain water inside of the container to a level below ~~the upper inlet~~ a water supply level.
2. (Previously Presented) The steam generator of claim 1, wherein the drain unit includes a siphon structure.
3. (Currently Amended) The steam generator of claim 1, wherein the drain unit comprises:
a siphon pipe arranged to be penetrated at a lower portion of the container, the siphon pipe including the ~~upper~~ inlet; and
a siphon cap arranged at an outer circumferential surface of the siphon pipe with a certain interval for forming a channel along which water rises.
4. (Original) The steam generator of claim 3, wherein the drain unit further comprises a supporting rib for supporting the siphon cap in order to maintain a certain interval between the siphon cap and the siphon pipe.
5. (Currently Amended) The steam generator of claim 3, wherein the upper end of the siphon pipe is positioned inside the container, a lower end thereof is positioned outside the container, and a height of the siphon pipe positioned inside the container is higher than ~~a~~ the water supply level.

6. (Previously Presented) The steam generator of claim 3, wherein the siphon cap has a blocked upper side and covers the siphon pipe, and a lower end of the siphon cap is arranged to maintain a certain interval with a bottom surface of the container in order to introduce water.

7. (Original) The steam generator of claim 4, wherein the supporting rib is radially formed at an outer circumferential surface of the siphon pipe with a certain interval, and is provided with a mounting groove for mounting a lower end of the siphon cap.

8. (Previously Presented) The steam generator of claim 1, wherein the water is drained through a bottom of the container.

9. (Previously Presented) The steam generator of claim 1, wherein the drain unit operates when the water inside the container is at a certain level.

10. (Previously Presented) The steam generator of claim 1, wherein the drain unit is configured to drain substantially all the water inside of the container.

11. (Currently Amended) A laundry machine comprising:

a laundry tub;

~~an~~ a laundry drum located inside the laundry tub; ~~and~~

a steam generator including:

a container provided with a water supply port to supply water and

a steam exhaustion port to exhaust steam;

a heater to heat the water supplied into the container; and

a drain unit having an inlet to drain water inside of the container to

a level below a water supply level; and

means for spraying the exhausted steam directly into the laundry drum.

12. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine of claim 11, further comprising means for spraying exhausted water from the laundry tub directly into the laundry drum.

13. (Previously Presented) The laundry machine of claim 12, wherein the drain unit is configured to drain substantially all the water inside of the container.

14. (Currently Amended) A laundry machine comprising:

~~an~~ a laundry drum; ~~and~~

a steam generator including:

a container provided with a water supply port to supply water and
a steam exhaustion port to exhaust steam;

a heater to heat the water supplied into the container; and

a drain unit configured to drain water inside of the container to a
level below a water supply level and to drain substantially all the water
inside of the container outwardly; and

means for spraying the exhausted steam directly into the laundry drum.

15. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) An operating method for a laundry machine, the method comprising:

supplying water into a container;

heating the water to produce steam;

exhausting steam through a first outlet of the container to a drum of the laundry machine;

and

draining water from the container through a second outlet of the container after heating the steam.

16. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The operating method of claim 15, wherein the draining step includes supplying additional water into the container to drain residual water from the heating step.

17. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The operating method of claim 15, wherein the supplying step includes supplying water up to a water supply level, and the draining step includes supplying water up to a drain water level that is higher than the water supply level.

18. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The operating method of claim 15, wherein the draining step includes siphoning the water from the container.

19. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The operating method of claim 15, wherein the draining step includes draining substantially all the water in the container.

20. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) An operating method for a laundry machine, the method comprising:

- supplying water into a container;
- heating the water to produce steam;
- exhausting steam through a first outlet of the container to a drum of the laundry machine;
- supplying additional water into the container; and
- draining water from the container through a second outlet of the container after heating the steam.

21. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein supplying additional water into the container causes the water to drain from the container.

22. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the supplying the water step includes supplying water up to a water supply level, and the supplying additional water step includes supplying water up to a drain water level that is higher than the water supply level.

23. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The operating method of claim 20, wherein the draining step includes siphoning the water from the container.

24. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The operating method of claim 20, wherein the draining step includes draining substantially all the water in the container.